

**FILE**

Ashtabula County Commissioners  
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August 20, 2008

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Docketing Case #07-1112-WS-AIR  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV  
2008 SEP 10 PM 12:37  
PUCO

RE: Docketing Case Number 07-1112-WS-AIR  
Ohio American Water Company

Dear Committee Chairperson and Members:

Last week, the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners was updated by Ohio American Water Company on its pending rate case currently under PUCO review. Early in the process we were bracing for a 12%+ increase to our special contracted bulk rate for Ashtabula County. Now we are being told that your agency is preparing to approve a 14%+ increase. The Board wants to go on record, again, that Ashtabula County strongly opposes this rate increase. This increase must be passed on to County residents who are already facing difficult economic times.

The County currently purchases bulk water from Ohio American to provide service to approximately 5,300 accounts. Over 90% of these accounts are single family residential. If this current rate increase is approved, this would be our third water increase from Ohio American since May 2005. Over this short time period, the County has experienced approximately 24% in higher rates, not including the pending 14%+ increase.



The two earlier Ohio American rate increases were not opposed by the County with the understanding that major capital improvements would be made to the local system. It is our understanding this pending Ohio American increase is a state wide measure. In Ashtabula County, we do not believe the level of capital improvement/customer service over the past three years from Ohio American can justify a collective 38%+ increase in water rates.

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We would ask that your agency closely review Ohio American's most recent rate request and find it excessive and not justified. If there are any questions regarding this letter and our request, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

**Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners**

		
DANIEL R. CLAYPOOL President	JOE MOROSKI Commissioner	PEGGY CARLO Commissioner

CC: Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lou Kreider, Aqua Ohio  
James Pearson, City of Geneva  
Beverly Martin, Village of Rock Creek  
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